



Space, Missile, Command and Control

COMMUNICATIONS/CONNECTIVITY EXERCISES

This instruction established the 4th Air Support Operations Group (ASOG) Air Force Air Request Net Exercise (AFARNEX) program and procedures. The AFARNEX is used to assess the group's communication capabilities between the various Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) echelons and the 4th Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS) and to practice AFARNEX procedures on a quarterly basis. Compliance with this instruction will ensure that all units are taking the necessary steps to establish and maintain communications in the field with all required echelons.

Paragraph

Air Force Air Request Net Exercise (AFARNEX).....	1.1
Squadron Commander Responsibilities.....	1.2
CTAPS.....	1.3

1.1 AFARNEX. The 4 ASOG quarterly Air Force Air Request Net Exercise (AFARNEX) provides an opportunity to practice tactical communication procedures between the Air Support Operations Center (ASOC) and various Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) echelons. The intent is to identify equipment/procedural discrepancies that require increased emphasis. The 4th Air Support Operations Squadron Commander (4 ASOS/CC) is responsible for conducting the AFARNEX and will coordinate with the 1st and 2d ASOS/CCs for scheduling and execution.

1.2 Squadron Commander Responsibilities. Unless waived by 4 ASOG/CC,

1.2.1 4 ASOS/CC will:

1.2.1.1 Develop and distribute an annual exercise schedule and exercise objectives. Exercises should coincide with field/command post exercises to the maximum extent possible.

1.2.1.2 Identify and distribute exercise frequencies/complans, antenna types, and locations to be used to the TACPs no later than 10 days prior to the start of the exercise. High Frequency (HF) will be the primary means of communication. The same exercise location will not be used consecutively.

1.2.1.3 Deploy an ASOC with personnel and equipment adequate for the exercise.

1.2.1.4 Exercise and test COMSEC procedures during each exercise using appropriate encryption/ decryption devices and maintain a frequency database to correlate problem areas.

1.2.1.5 Forward a report to 4 ASOG/CC detailing trends, problem areas, and suggestions for improving AFARN performance no later than 15 working days after each exercise. The report will identify non-participants with alibis and should focus on problem areas/solutions. The 4 ASOS/CC is responsible for monitoring and coordinating corrective actions.

1.2.2 1 ASOS/CC and 2 ASOS/CC will:

1.2.2.1 Deploy required brigade TACP out of garrison to participate in the exercise.

1.2.2.2 Ensure each TACP submits AIRCENT 8001 to test red/green request procedures.

1.2.2.3 Forward a report to 4 ASOS/DO and 4 ASOG/DO no later than 5 working days after the exercise detailing each TACP location, system used (MRC or portable), antenna type (NVIS, longwire, whip, etc), and signal strength (GR/LC, WR/UR, etc). The report should also address problems encountered and lessons learned.

1.3 CTAPS. Exercises are also required to test, evaluate, and demonstrate CTAPS capability quarterly. The intent is to practice coordination of satellite access, hardware setup, and reliable reception of ATO information through CTAPS. CTAPS exercises will be conducted and reported in conjunction with the quarterly AFARNEX.

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